

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**On page 15, please replace the section after BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS with the following amended section:**

Fig. 1 graphically illustrates functions  $k' [N/(N+S)]$  and  $g' [N/(N+S)]$  used in echo and noise reduction.

Fig. 2 ~~is~~ illustrates a functional overview of echo and/or noise correction consistent with the present invention.

~~Fig. 3 illustrates a functional overview of echo and noise correction consistent with the present invention.~~

**On page 15, please replace the second full paragraph with the following amended paragraph:**

Fig. 2 shows an actual embodiment consistent with the invention. A ~~measuring and/or estimating section~~ noise detector 2 continuously measures and/or estimates the power value of a noise level  $N$  in an input signal 1 of a currently used telecommunications channel [[ 1 ]]. Similarly, the echo detector 3 measures the echo signal in the input signal 1. The ~~echo canceller~~ echo and/or noise reduction function  $R$  outputs a reduction signal 8 based on the detected noise and echo signals in the input signal 1. The function  $R$  may be, for example, the generalized reduction function  $R(S, N, ES, \tau_E, ERL, thrs)$ . As described above, the general reduction function  $R$  is a function of the noise reduction function,  $g(S/N)$ , and the noise-dependent echo reduction function  $d(N, ES, \tau_E, ERL, thrs)$ . The reduction function  $R$  sets continuously and automatically a degree of reduction of the echo and/or noise signals measured ~~on~~ by noise detector 2 and echo

detector 3. The reduction signal 8 output from the echo and/or noise reduction function R is sent to an echo and/or noise canceller 5, which subtracts the reduction signal 8 from the input signal 1 and produces an output signal 7 that has the desired reduction of echo and/or noise, as represented by function d. The reduction of the echo signals is in dependence on the noise level N of the telecommunications channel 1. The dependence is based on a predefined function h(N) in function section 4. Fig. 3 shows an embodiment of the invention where the As described above, the noise reduction and the echo reduction are controlled separately by function d in function section 5 and function g in function section 6, respectively may be applied independently and additionally to the input signal 1, e.g., the reduction function R may just include the function d(N,ES, $\tau_E$ ,ERL,thrs) for producing a noise-dependent echo reduction signal.

Fig. 1 illustrates an example for the To ensure that only interfering noise is removed from the input signal 1 instead of a mixture of noise and traces of speech, a speech pause detector 6 may be added.

The noise-dependent echo reduction function d(N,ES, $\tau_E$ ,ERL,thrs) may be, for example, a function  $k' [N/(N+S)]$  as illustrated in Fig. 1, and the noise reduction function g(S/N) may be, for example, a an example for the function  $g' [N/(N+S)]$ . Examples of noise and echo dampening using these These non-limiting examples of noise and echo reduction functions are given below further described below.